



The dimensions of the above figure shall be as follows:

Label	Dimensions	Percent of television picture height
A	Television picture height .....	100.0
B	Television picture width .....	133.33
C	Height of safe caption area .....	80.0
D	Width of safe caption area .....	106.67
E	Vertical position of safe caption area.	10.0
F	Horizontal position of safe caption area.	13.33

(13) *Special characters*: Displayable characters (except for "transparent space") which require a two-byte sequence of one non-printing and one printing character. The non-printing byte varies depending on the data channel. Regular characters require unique one-byte codes which are the same in either data channel.

(14) *Text*: When written with an upper-case "T", refers to the Text Mode. When written with a lower-case "t", refers to any combination of displayable characters.

(15) *Transparent space*: Transmitted as a special character, it is a one-column-wide space behind which program video is always visible (except when a transparent space immediately precedes or follows a displayable character and solid box is needed to make that character legible).

[56 FR 27201, June 13, 1991, as amended at 57 FR 19094, May 4, 1992; 58 FR 44893, Aug. 25, 1993]

#### § 15.120 Program blocking technology requirements for television receivers.

(a) Effective July 1, 1999, manufacturers of television broadcast receivers as defined in section 15.3(w) of this chapter, including personal computer systems meeting that definition, must ensure that one-half of their product models with picture screens 33 cm (13 in) or larger in diameter shipped in interstate commerce or manufactured in the United States comply with the

provisions of paragraphs (c), (d), and (e) of this section.

NOTE: This paragraph places no restrictions on the shipping or sale of television receivers that were manufactured before July 1999.

(b) Effective January 1, 2000, all TV broadcast receivers as defined in section 15.3(w) of this chapter, including personal computer systems meeting that definition, with picture screens 33 cm (13 in) or larger in diameter shipped in interstate commerce or manufactured in the United States shall comply with the provisions of paragraphs (c), (d), and (e) of this section.

(c) *Transmission format.* (1) Analog television program rating information shall be transmitted on line 21 of field 2 of the vertical blanking interval of television signals, in accordance with § 73.682(a)(22) of this chapter.

(2) [Reserved]

(d) *Operation.* (1) Analog television receivers will receive program ratings transmitted pursuant to EIA-744: "Transport of Content Advisory Information Using Extended Data Service (XDS)" (incorporated by reference, see § 15.38) and EIA-608: "Recommended Practice for Line 21 Data Service" (incorporated by reference, see § 15.38). Blocking of programs shall occur when a program rating is received that meets the pre-determined user requirements.

(2) Digital television receivers shall react in a similar manner as analog televisions when programmed to block specific rating categories.

(e) All television receivers as described in paragraph (a) of this section shall block programming as follows:

(1) *Channel Blocking.* Channel Blocking should occur as soon as a program rating packet with the appropriate Content Advisory or MPAA rating level is received. Program blocking is described as a receiver performing all of the following:

- Muting the program audio.
- Rendering the video black or otherwise indecipherable.
- Eliminating program-related captions.

(2) *Default State.* The default state of a receiver (i.e., as provided to the consumer) should not block unrated programs. However, it is permissible to in-

clude features that allow the user to reprogram the receiver to block programs that are not rated.

(3) *Picture-In-Picture (PIP).* If a receiver has the ability to decode program-related rating information for the Picture-In-Picture (PIP) video signal, then it should block the PIP channel in the same manner as the main channel. If the receiver does not have the ability to decode PIP program-related rating information, then it should block or otherwise disable the PIP if the viewer has enabled program blocking.

(4) *Selection of Ratings.* Each television receiver, in accordance with user input, shall block programming based on the age based ratings, the content based ratings, or a combination of the two.

(i) If the user chooses to block programming according to its age based rating level, the receiver must have the ability to automatically block programs with a more restrictive age based rating. For example, if all shows with an age-based rating of TV-PG have been selected for blocking, the user should be able to automatically block programs with the more restrictive ratings of TV-14 and TV-MA.

(ii) If the user chooses to block programming according to a combination of age based and content based ratings the receiver must have the ability to automatically block programming with a more restrictive age rating but a similar content rating. For example, if all shows rated TV-PG-V have been selected for blocking, the user should be able to block automatically shows with the more restrictive ratings of TV-14-V and TV-MA-V.

(iii) The user should have the capability of overriding the automatic blocking described in paragraphs (e)(4)(i) and (4)(ii) of this section.

[63 FR 20133, Apr. 23, 1998, as amended at 68 FR 68546, Dec. 9, 2003; 69 FR 2849, Jan. 21, 2004]

**§ 15.121 Scanning receivers and frequency converters used with scanning receivers.**

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, scanning receivers and frequency converters designed or